



*Libby-
woodchips
asbestos*

To: Betsaida Alcantara/DC/USEPA/US,
Cc: Jim Martin/R8/USEPA/US@EPA, Sonya Pennock/R8/USEPA/US@EPA, Bill Murray,
Bcc:
Subject: Re: Jim Statement

1258913 - R8 SDMS

*Libby-
Commence
press
(don't think
went out)*

see my changes- let Bill and Sonya know if you want it to go out. I am gone rest of day to doctor. cc

Carol L. Campbell, Assistant Regional Administrator
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Betsaida Alcantara

Carol, we had this idea of putting this out to mon...

07/07/2011 03:30:24 PM

From: Betsaida Alcantara/DC/USEPA/US
To: Carol Campbell/R8/USEPA/US@EPA, Sonya Pennock/R8/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Jim Martin/R8/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 07/07/2011 03:30 PM
Subject: Jim Statement

Carol,
we had this idea of putting this out to montana reporters. Can you guys review and wait til i give the ok to
send out to your montana reporters. thx!

Statement from Regional Administrator Jim Martin on Recent Libby, Montana News Reports

"This EPA Administration has taken the unprecedented step of declaring a public health emergency under law and invested almost \$400 million public dollars to clean up the town thus far. EPA will not walk away from the people of Libby. We are here for the duration to deal with issues, large and small, in a transparent, science based and open manner. This EPA will honor its commitment to the people of Libby."

Background Information:

The facts about the wood chips found in Libby are as follows. EPA collected samples in October 2007 from the wood chips at the Stimson Mill property. While asbestos was detected in only 4 of 20 samples analyzed, no asbestos was detected in the personal air monitoring data on workers and equipment operators at the site. As a result, EPA concluded that the wood chips were not a significant source of asbestos. Discussions were held with the party responsible for the wood chip pile (Kootenai River Development Council KRDC) regarding the potential for low level asbestos contamination. EPA published the data on July 25, 2008 and made this report

available at the Libby information center and on the web in August 2008.

The Libby Asbestos Site contains many potential sources of asbestos contamination. EPA will prioritize our response activities to address the worst sources and highest exposures first. The bottom line is that EPA's previous sampling results and historical information suggest that the wood chip piles are not a significant source of asbestos contamination. We have focused on cleaning up schools, homes and other areas where children may be exposed. We've cleaned up almost 1,500 commercial and residential properties and about 825,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil have been removed. (These efforts have helped to achieve reductions in air concentrations of asbestos fibers in Libby with concentrations 10,000 times lower since the company left the community.)- be careful with this statement as we have gotten a lot of negative incoming as we are uncertain how much is due to our work and how much is due to company no longer operating. I would strike it or use my change here.

Based on the community's concerns and the recently derived Libby Amphibole toxicity values, EPA recommended to the KRDC Company in a March 25, 2011, letter and in subsequent conversations, that the wood chip material not be sold until we have more information. Our understanding is that KRDC accepted this recommendation. EPA is reevaluating the available data and will conduct additional sampling this summer to further clarify what, if any, risk this material poses to the residents. In the meantime, residents that are concerned should contact ERS or visit our EPA center in Libby. Our work has made real and significant improvements in the Libby community. There is more work to be done and EPA is committed to being here until that work is done.